

# THE NEWS - RECORD

## FHA Housing Change To Benefit More Families

Hundreds of Tar Heel rural families will now be eligible for Farmers Home Administration housing loans as a result of a recent change in eligibility requirements according to North Carolina State Director James T. Johnson.

The change raises the maximum adjusted family income from \$9,600 to \$11,500 in North Carolina. Adjusted income is determined by figuring the annual gross income of the family, subtracting 5 percent withholdings and \$300 for each minor child living in the home.

Under the previous \$9,600 maximum, many families were over and could not obtain conventional loans for needed

housing. The rise in cost of living and incomes together with increased building costs and higher home payments necessitated the new policy. This change will enable Farmers Home Administration to continue a viable housing program for hundreds of families who have been unable to obtain other credit.

State Director Johnson said that families who have previously been ineligible because of these factors and others who meet the new requirements should visit their local FHA county office for additional information or to make applications. The local FHA office is located over the Citizens Bank in Marshall, N. C.

## \$350,400 Grant Approved For Marshall Water System

U. S. Senator Jesse Helms announced Tuesday morning that the Economic Development Administration has approved a grant for the Town of Marshall in the

amount of \$350,400 to enlarge the community's water system to serve two industrial areas.

An additional \$87,600 of the

total cost will come from the Town of Marshall, making the total cost of the project \$438,000.

The project will provide

additional water lines, filtration plant and a cover for the existing 1,000,000-gallon storage tank.

Mayor Lorado Ponder

stated Tuesday morning that the State Pure Air and Water Bond approval amounted to \$41,500, which actually means that Marshall's share will be \$47,200, Ponder explained.

## Swain Challenge For State Senate Cited

By JAY HENSLEY  
Citizen-Times Staff Writer  
RALEIGH — The lineup in the May 7 Democratic primary for nomination to the two seats in the North Carolina General Assembly from the four-county 26th Senate District has prompted speculation along two lines as to what created the race and the final outcome.

Swain of Candler, Swain, who served for 13 years as solicitor for the Superior Courts of Buncombe and Madison counties, could have simply decided to run for the state Senate — and that's all there is to it. But Swain is no political novice, and anybody who knows anything at all about mountain politics would not be content to speculate just that far and leave it alone. Some observers here in Raleigh are confident that

Swain is going after Crawford's seat, but if that's true, Crawford is determined to give him a run for the nomination. "I just don't believe that," Crawford said. "The support Swain would rely on the heaviest is committed to me." +++ The 26th Senate District is made up of Buncombe, Madison, McDowell and Yancey counties. Crawford doesn't believe the "heavies" in Madison County would try

to turn him out, because Rep. Liston B. Ramsey of Marshall, he said, was the man who persuaded him in 1970 to run against Republican incumbents from the Senate district. On the other hand, Swain has always been closely

aligned with Zeno Ponder of Marshall, Democratic political leader of the county for a number of years. So if the first assumption is correct, and it hardly seems likely, it would mean a split between Ramsey and Ponder.

## Wildfires Still A Problem In Madison County

"The spring fire season has started in Madison County," according to County Forest Ranger Charles Craine. "The spring fire season normally starts in late February or early March when the weather becomes warmer and the March winds begin blowing. This is also when the vegetation in the forests is

driest and most likely to burn. The spring fire season usually ends in early June, when trees and other plants are green and growing again," Craine said. Last year there were 3,435 wildfires in North Carolina, over 1,000 more fires than occurred in 1972. "Some 20 of those wildfires occurred right here in Madison County," according to Craine. Although the number of acres burned during the 1973 Spring Fires Season was less than during previous years, last fall was very dry and many wildfires occurred during October and November.

## Help For Forestry Work Available

A new program designed to increase the supply of wood available to meet our nation's future needs has begun in all counties in North Carolina. The federally sponsored Forest Incentives Program, known as FIP, became operational this spring across the United States. "Under this new program, a landowner can receive up to 75 percent of the cost of reforesting his land," according to County Forest Ranger Charles Craine. "But this is for forestry work only," Craine said, "and funds are not available under the Forest Incentives Program for planting windbreaks or putting in irrigation ditches. This program will increase the amount of wood growing in our forests now so the wood will be available and ready for use when needed 20 years from now."

Under the Forest Incentives Program, any individual, group, association, or corporation owning private non-industrial commercial forest lands are eligible for assistance. The land must be capable of producing a merchantable timber crop and of growing at least 50 cubic feet of wood per acre per year. Additional information on the Forest Incentives Program is available by contacting the local office of the ASCS, or calling Madison County Forest Ranger Charles Craine at 649-3366.

## Firemen To Meet Friday

Officers of the Marshall Volunteer Fire Department announced this week that an important meeting will be held at the headquarters here Friday night at 7:30 o'clock. All firemen are urgently requested to attend.

## County ASCS Office To Administer REAP

Madison County ASCS Office will be responsible for administering the new 1974 Rural Environmental Conservation Program. The new program, which replaces and modifies the old REAP, has several new aspects of interest to Madison County residents. According to Nila Mann, ASCS Acting County Executive Director, the new cost-sharing phase of the program could be extremely beneficial to our county farmers. It provides for a

minimum of 50 percent and maximum of 75 percent return to the user for all expenses he incurs while establishing conservation or forestry practices on his land, including labor costs. Also under the 1974 program, an applicant can either elect to apply for a single one-year program of conservation improvement or select a three to ten-year continuing program. The extended period of time now allowed will be most beneficial to those wishing rather extensive

conservation improvements on their land but preferring to spread them out over a period of years. All applications must be made directly to the ASCS county office. Complete information and details on the specific programs will be available in the very near future. She also said ASCS does have the basic information on the program that has been authorized by the Secretary of Agriculture for cost-sharing. Fourteen separate practices

have been announced, plus two which deal with county projects affecting conservation peculiar to a particular county. This year's program places added emphasis on forestry practices which could offer additional interest to some of our applicants.

## Southern Pine Beetles Still Killing Trees

The worst outbreak of Southern Pine Beetles in North Carolina since the early 1960's continues to plague the state. According to Madison County Forest Ranger Charles Craine, Southern Pine Beetle activity usually decreases during the winter months. "A sudden severe cold snap will kill many of the beetles, but this winter has been so warm that beetle activity has hardly slowed."

Pine beetle infestations have been reported in 68 counties in the State with Gaston, Cleveland, Rutherford, and McDowell being hardest hit. As of the end of December, there were 4600 spots of infested trees statewide, as compared with 3400 spots last July. "The N. C. Forest Service locates the infested areas during periodic aerial surveys, then notifies the landowner of the problem," according to Craine. "If the landowner wishes, we will arrange to have infested trees removed by private operators and will mark the trees which must be cut. There are presently 2 active spots of Southern Pine Beetles in Madison County," according to Craine.

The major control effort continues to be the rapid removal of infested trees through salvage operations. Private pulpwood and sawing operators normally perform this work, removing and using the infested wood as rapidly as possible. "Our wood using industries have been extremely cooperative in giving priority to these salvage operations," Craine said. During 1973, some 50,000 cords of pulpwood and 32 million board feet of timber were salvaged from trees killed by the Southern Pine Beetle in North Carolina.

The Southern Pine Beetle is about 3-16 of an inch long and attacks only pine trees. Many of the beetles attack a tree together, eating away at the vital cambium layer underneath the bark and creating a series of tunnels or galleries which girdle and kill the tree. Infested trees can be identified by all the needles turning brown or red, or by the presence of pitch tubes which resemble popcorn on the outside of the bark. Once the Southern Pine Beetle attacks a tree, the tree will die. By the time the needles turn brown, the beetles may have already moved to surrounding trees. This is why it is necessary to remove a buffer strip of seemingly healthy trees when salvaging a spot of beetle killed trees.

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MR. AND MRS. COLLIE PAYNE, of the Big Pine section, are grateful to French Broad EMC personnel for changing transformer and wiring last week from 120 volts to 240 volts so they could use a recently purchased electric range in their mountainous home. This was achieved by using "Berry", their 6-year-old steer to pull the steep grade for about one-third of a mile with transformer, equipment and wire on a sled. Top photo shows Collie looking at loaded sled starting up the mountain. Center picture shows left to right, "Sambo" Waldroup, Ivan Bradley, Collie Payne and J. C. Brazil watching "Berry" do his thing. Bottom photo shows Mrs. Payne and "Sambo" Waldroup in Payne kitchen with new range. Waldroup and Brazil are servicemen for the co-op; Bradley is co-op Work Order Accountant. Arnold Garrison, warehouseman, was the photographer.

## Few Cases Tried In Court Here Last Week

The February term of superior court for the trial of criminal cases started here on Monday of last week and adjourned on Wednesday with few cases heard.

Judge Lacy Thornburg presided and the prosecution was by Solicitor Clyde M. Roberts.

The vast majority of the cases on the heavy calendar were either not pressed or continued, according to the records in the clerk's office. The two judgments rendered were:

State vs. John Gubagan, charged with breaking, entering and larceny, pleaded guilty and received a nine-month sentence. State vs. Joe Ross Chandler, charged with breaking, entering and larceny, also

pleaded guilty and received a two-year sentence.

William McKinley Lingerfelt, charged with breaking, entering and larceny, was found not guilty by the jury.

## Baley Receives Scout Award

Judge James H. Baley, Jr. of Raleigh and Asheville was among four men who received the Daniel Boone Council, Boy Scouts of America Silver Beaver award at the council's annual recognition dinner on Saturday night, February 3, at Clifton's Calveria Annex, Hendersonville.

The Silver Beaver award is the highest honor that can be bestowed by a local council to a volunteer.

## Extension Award Given To Robinson

GREENSBORO — The North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service presented one of its two outstanding leader awards for 1974 here Monday night to Denver Robinson, western district extension chairman.

The presentation was made by Extension Director George Hyatt Jr. during a state conference of extension workers. The other outstanding leader award was presented to the Chowan County extension staff as a unit.

Robinson, a native of Ashe County, was honored for helping extension agents to improve their educational programs and for helping to establish better communication between county commissioners and state extension officials.

Robinson has been in charge of the extension program in the 14 westernmost counties since 1969. Prior to that he was stationed in Asheville as TVA test demonstration supervisor, and prior to that he served as an extension agent in Graham and Madison counties.

Hyatt said in making the presentation: "You'll still find Denver Robinson roaming the mountains of Appalachia with a kind of missionary zeal, meeting people where they are and helping them, although their resources are often limited. But, thanks to Denver, you'll also find that county agents are better equipped to do their job and receiving more support from governing bodies."

## 4-H Talent Show Held At Mars Hill

It was a night of fun and entertainment as Madison County 4-H'ers staged the annual Talent Show Saturday at Mars Hill College. More than 35 4-H'ers participated in this year's event. Three top acts were selected to represent Madison County at the District Talent Show in Franklin, N. C., June 28. They are: The Bethel 4-H Chorus; Mike Metcalf and Karen

Boone; Vickie Merrill and Margaret Eller. Judges for the event were Johnny Hensley, Assistant Extension Agent in Burnsville and Barbara Menter, Assistant Home Economics Agent, Sylva.

Special thanks go to Ferrell Brady, who was Master of Ceremonies, WMMH Radio, Mars Hill College and The News-Record.



On March 5, 1974, Kyle Roberts, Director of Safety for Western North Carolina MDM Group, presented a certificate of Safety Achievement to French Broad EMC, Marshall, North Carolina. To be able to receive this award, French Broad EMC employees had to work a year without a lost time accident. French Broad EMC's 88 employees in 1973 worked a total of 188,474 hours without a lost time accident. French Broad EMC's 35 vehicles drove a total of

496,229 miles. In presenting the Certificate, Roberts stated he was very pleased to make this presentation and was very proud of French Broad employees and encouraged them to keep the good record going. Pictured above is Mr. Roberts, left, presenting the certificate to Mr. John P. Ponder, manager of the Co-Op. Personnel of the Co-Op are pictured in background.